

ISLAND SKY

Launched in late 2008 by the Washington Marine Group's Vancouver Shipyards (Hull #167), North Vancouver and delivered to BC Ferry Services (BCFS) early in 2009, was the 328' (loa; 323-ft lwl) x 88.5' (maximum beam) x 15.75' (max loaded draft) 3400 tonnes displacement MV ISLAND SKY, the first vessel in the new 'Island'-class of ro-ro ferries. The ISLAND SKY was designed by Vancouver Shipyards with capacities for 125 cars (620 total lane-metres on the main deck and port and starboard fixed gallery decks) and 600 passengers, and is scheduled to enter service on BCFS's Earl's Cove – Saltery Bay crossing in February 2009. Propulsion is provided by four Niigata ZP-21 Z-peller drives (2.265:1 reduction ratio; fitted with Niigata slipping clutches) turned by four 1527-hp (@ 770 rpm) Niigata 6L25HX six-cylinder in-line four-stroke diesels with US EPA Tier 1 emissions certification. The NiBrAl fixed-pitch 75-in four-blade Kaplan-style ice-class Niigata propellers are in Kort-type speed nozzles. Service speed is 14.5 knots at 67% MCR. The ISLAND SKY's 1,320-tonne hull was constructed in North Vancouver while the 480-tonne superstructure was constructed at the Washington Marine Group's Victoria Shipyards in Victoria BC and the two were mated in the Esquimalt Graving Dock in Esquimalt, west of Victoria.



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See *ISLAND SKY: Island-class Ferry Roll-out & Load-out – A Technical Challenge* in *Western Mariner* January 2008.



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